(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive tourist interest in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) The State Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that there was an initial drop in tourist arrivals in the Tsunami affected areas between 26th and 31st December 2004 and subsequently tourist arrivals have picked up. Some damage to tourist cottages, boat jetty, launches, tourist amenities, etc. at Mamallapuram, Muttukadu, Kanniyakumari, Mudaliyarkuppam, Nagapattinam, Velankanni and Poompuhar has also been reported by the State Government.

(c) The Central Ministry of Tourism and the State Tourism Department of Tamil Nadu have taken immediate measures to provide information about the Tsunami affected areas in the State and to restore confidence of the tourists about India being a safe destination for travel.

Tourism projects

131. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing tourism projects pertaining to historical and archaeological importance in the different parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of such projects completed so far; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for these projects to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments for development of tourist infactructure under its various schemes which also cover places of historical and archaeological importance. The number of projects sanctioned during the Tenth Plan State-wise along with other details are placed at the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Starred Question No. 1 part (a) and (b)]

(c) The Ministry of Tourism undertakes review meetings with the State Governments and also conducts visits to these sites for monitoring the progress of projects under the schemes funded by it.

Website incredible

132. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Incredible India' website of his Ministry tells foreigners that the Indian Standard Time stands for Indian Stretchable time; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the advice given on this website to foreign visitors gives a bad name to every Indian and consider every Indian as indisciplined; and

(c) what measures are being taken by Government to remove these objectionable contents from the website?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY): (a) No, Sir. The Incredible India website in the section 'Tips for Travelling in India-Time' cautions the travelers to keep extra time whatever the traveler intends to do. To create interest, the Indians joke about the concept of "Indian Stretchable Time" (IST) has been mentioned for cautioning the super-punctual visitors to have sufficient time at their disposal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Damage to tourism industry due to Tsunami tragedy

133. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total damage caused to tourism industry due to Tsunami tragedy;